

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /061 W
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O 032305Z MAY 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7299
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 02280

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, PORG, CA
SUBJECT: LTDP AND NATO SUMMIT: CANADIAN POSITION

REF: A. USNATO 4391 B. STATE 111029

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN OFFICIALS SAY TRUDEAU'S DESIRE
FOR MORE POLITICAL INPUT AND MORE ORDERLY (AND THUS
PUBLICLY CONVINCING) APPROACH IS SOLE SOURCE OF CURRENT
CANADIAN CAMPAIGN ON LTDP. THEY INSIST PURPOSE IS TO
MAKE LTDP MORE EFFECTIVE. I TOLD THEM EFFECT OF
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CANADIAN CAMPAIGN COULD BE TO BLOW MAJOR U.S. INITIATIVE
OUT OF WATER JUST WHEN IT IS ABOUT TO SUCCEED, AND
EXPRESSED SURPRISE GOC WOULD TAKE SUCH A RISK, WHEN
APPARENTLY NO ELECTORAL OR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE IS AT
STAKE. OFFICIALS ARE REPORTING OUR VIEWS TO TRUDEAU
TODAY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, I CALLED MAY 3 ON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY GOLDSCHLAG (EXTAFF) TO EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE AND DEEP CONCERN OVER GOC APPROACH TO LTDP AS REFLECTED IN DANSON TO BROWN AND TRUDEAU TO CARTER LETTERS AND HARDY'S SUBMISSION OF ALTERNATIVE DRAFT REPORT TO HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT. (BLACK FROM DND AND MATHEWSON, DIRECTOR OF NATO AFFAIRS IN EXTAFF, WERE ALSO PRESENT.)

3. IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTIONS, GOLDSCHLAG ASSERTED THAT CANADIAN POSITION WAS NOT INFLUENCED TO ANY APPRECIABLE EXTENT BY (A) JUXTAPOSITION OF NATO SUMMIT AND SSOD, (B) CANADIAN NATIONAL ELECTIONS WHICH MAY OCCUR IN EARLY JULY AND (C) MOST RECENT GOC DEFENSE BUDGET WHICH REVEALED SHORT-FALL IN COMMITMENT TO 12 PERCENT YEARLY INCREASE IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND TO 3 PERCENT NATO GOAL (LATTER ISSUE COVERED BY SEPTTEL).

4. GOLDSCHLAG ATTRIBUTED GOC ATTITUDE SOLELY TO TRUDEAU'S INTEREST IN MAKING DEFENSE POLICY CONSONANT WITH FOREIGN POLICY AND HIS CONCERN TO AVOID SUMMIT LIKE THE MEETINGS "THE NATO BUREAUCRACY" HAS ARRANGED IN PAST. IN A "CARTESIAN" MANNER, TRUDEAU WANTS A "PERCEPTIBLE DESIGN," OR "LOGICAL SEQUENCE" TO NATO SUMMIT WHICH CLEARLY RELATES THE EAST-WEST STUDY, THE LTDP, AND THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE. HE INSISTED CANADIANS HAVE NO CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEM WITH SUBSTANCE OF LTDP, JUST WITH PROCEDURE.

5. BLACK ARGUED THAT THESE VIEWS SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO US AS THEY HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY CANADIANS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, SINCE JANUARY. MOD-EXTAFF SHARE THEM EQUALLY. GOC HAD DECIDED ON CURRENT, COORDINATED APPROACH "TO GET US TO FOCUS" ON ISSUE. BLACK ADDED THAT GOC IS NOT TRYING TO UNDO WORK OF LTDP, BUT BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN THREE OR FOUR AREAS FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO CONCENTRATE ON. IN PAST, NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OUT OF PHASE WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS, SUCH AS AEW, HAVE COME ALONG, UPSETTING PLANNING PROCESS. SOMETHING BETTER THAN PRESENT PLANNING PROCESS IS REQUIRED, AND LTDP DOES NOT ADEQUATELY DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

6. IN RESPONSE, I INDICATED THAT WE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH A REFERENCE IN THE LTDP TO A RELATIONSHIP TO THE EAST-WEST STUDY, BUT THAT WHAT THE GOC WAS PROPOSING NOW WOULD PUT US BACK TO WHERE WE WERE A YEAR AGO AND WOULD CUT THE HEART OUT OF THE SUMMIT MEETING. WE WOULDN'T

KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT COSTS BY NEXT DECEMBER (GOLDSCHLAG AGREED), BUT MEANWHILE WE WOULD HAVE LOST A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN COMMITMENTS FROM OUR ALLIES (NOTABLY THE EUROPEANS) IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS.

7. GOLDSCHLAG CAME BACK TO ALLEGED NEED TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN LTDP AND DIRECT LINKAGE TO EAST-WEST STUDY. HE ALSO ASSERTED THAT GOC POSITION ADDS WHAT U.S. APPROACH LACKS, I.E. REAL COMMITMENT AT POLITICAL LEVEL TO IMPLEMENT DEFENSE PROGRAMS. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, HE THOUGHT, WERE NOT GREAT AND ESSENTIALLY PROCEDURAL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 02280

I DISAGREED. NATO IS ALWAYS READY TO TAKE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE. IF THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL STANDS, A MAJOR U.S. INITIATIVE MIGHT GET BLOWN OUT OF THE WATER NOT BECAUSE AN ALLY HAS SERIOUS POLITICAL OR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH IT, BUT ONLY BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE PREFERRERED A "MORE ORDERLY SEQUENCE."

8. ON FORMAT OF SUMMIT, GOLDSCHLAG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WE WOULD BE FOLLOWING IN WASHINGTON USUAL PATTERN OF SET SPEECHES, PHOTO SESSIONS, BRIEFINGS, SUMMATION OF MEETING BY SYG, ETC. WITH LITTLE OPPORTUNITY FOR HEADS
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OF GOVERNMENT TO HAVE MEANINGFUL EXCHANGES. I REPLIED THAT WE HAVE BEEN MAKING EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO GET AWAY FROM STANDARD PATTERN OF NATO MINISTERIALS AND TO PROVIDE TIME FOR SUCH EXCHANGES, AND NOTED THAT HARDY HAD APPARENTLY BEEN NOTABLY LACKING IN SUPPORTING SUCH EFFORTS AT A TIME WHEN THEY COULD HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. THIS LAST POINT CLEARLY CAME AS A SURPRISE TO GOLDSCHLAG.

9. GOLDSCHLAG WILL SEE TRUDEAU LATER TODAY AND REPORT OUR VIEWS.

10. COMMENT: THIS MEETING WAS USEFUL IN CLARIFYING WHAT IS AND IS NOT MOTIVATING CANADIANS AND IN TELLING THEM HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THEIR EXERCISE IN "CARTESIANISM." BUT WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE TRUDEAU'S ATTACHMENT TO HIS CONCEPT. HE HAS OFTEN TOLD ME OF HIS DISDAIN FOR NATO MEETINGS AND THE NATO APPARATUS, AND HE CLEARLY AUTHORIZED THE CURRENT CANADIAN CAMPAIGN. RESPONSES TO DANSON AND TRUDEAU LETTERS WILL HAVE TO BE VERY FIRM AND QUICK IF WE ARE GOING TO TURN THEM OFF ON THIS MATTER.
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